

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/829,476

Examiner

Jonathan G. Sterrett

Applicant(s)

LI, YIKANG

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10-7-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are Claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-35 and 37-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Susanna Diaz
SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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Summary

1. Applicant's amendment of October 7, 2005 amended **Claims 1, 7, 15, 21, 29, 35 and 43**; and canceled **Claims 8, 22 and 36**. Currently **Claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-35 and 37-43** are pending in the application.

Reasons for Allowance

2. **Claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-35 and 37-43** are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach, inter alia, applying iteration to obtain a base sale volume using a low pass filter where the base sales volume is a globally optimal sales volume determined from among locally optimal base sales volume series; wherein the locally optimal base sales volume series is determined solving a nonlinear regression equation for coefficients associated with an incremental price reduction series and one or more promotion variables; and computing and considering an error to reduce bias associated with use of estimated coefficients, as recited in independent **Claims 1, 15, 29 and 43**.

The novelty of the invention is in the combination of the limitations cited in independent **Claims 1, 15, 29 and 43** and not in any specific individual claim limitation.

The prior art reference most closely resembling the applicants claimed invention is Maravall.

While Maravall discloses low pass filtering using linear and non-linear regression techniques, it lacks solving a regression equation to determine values for estimated coefficients associated with an incremental price reduction series and one or more promotion variables; and computing and considering an error to reduce bias associated with use of estimated coefficients, as recited in **Claims 1, 15, 29 and 43**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 5237496 by Kagami discloses an inventory control method.

US 5237498 by Tenma discloses a system for retrieving and processing profit data.

US 5450314 by Kagami discloses a data processing method for supporting analysis/judgment.

US 5758328 by Giovannoli discloses a computational system using filters.

US 5765143 by Sheldon discloses a computational method for inventory management.

US 5933813 by Teicher discloses a system for processing sales promotion data.

US 5963919 by Brinkley discloses a method for evaluating inventory levels.

US 5974396 by Anderson discloses a method for clustering consumer data.

US 5983224 by Singh discloses a computational method for performing K-means data clustering.

US 6006196 by Feigin discloses a method for using distributed resource planning for optimizing inventory.

US 6009407 by Garg discloses a segmented consumer choice model.

US 6341269 by Dulaney discloses a system for optimizing inventory using calculations.

JP 2001084239 A by Waseda discloses a method for analyzing and predicting sales data.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JGS

JGS 10-6-05

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